



Attorney Docket No: P6150

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Carlo RUBBIA

Serial No.: 09/782,558

Filing Date: February 13, 2001

Title: Method and Device for Heating Gas  
From a Thin Layer of Nuclear Fuel,  
And Space Engine Using Such Method

Group Art Unit: 3641

Examiner: Palabrica, R.

"Express Mail" mailing label number EL 843426870US

Date of Deposit March 25, 2002

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sirs:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed January 24, 2002. A petition for a 1 month extension is enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

Applicant elects the invention group I directed to the apparatus claims 25-73.

However, as to the species restriction requirements Applicant elects as set out below, but with traverse. Applicant submits that the species restriction requirements arbitrarily limit the scope of the invention. The Examiner is requested to reconsider the species election requirement and to withdraw same.

Regarding section nos. 2 and 3, Applicant elects species A and E.

Regarding section no. 4, Applicant elects a species wherein the neutron reflector comprises a thickness of carbon material surrounding the enclosure, said thickness, in cm, being at least  $50/d$ , where  $d$  is the density of said carbon material expressed in grams per  $\text{cm}^3$  (claim 34).